

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS**

*Subject: Julius Rosenberg*

*File Number: New York "See References"*

*Section: Batch Number 6*



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

## NOTICE

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Julius Rosenberg Et AL.

New York "See References"

Batch  
Number

6

Batch No: 6Re: *Julius Rosenberg ET AL*Date: 4/78  
(month/year)

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New York 7, New York

~~PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL~~  
February 4, 1946

Director, FBI

Re: NATHAN GREGORY SILVERMASTER, was, et al;  
ESPIONAGE-R


Dear Sir:

Confidential Informant NYT-343, whose services have been utilized in connection with ABE BROTHMAN AND ASSOCIATES, 114 E. 32nd Street, New York City, telephone Murray Hill 3-9670, has furnished the following information of value to the above captioned investigation:

On January 3, 1946 Informant advised that BROTHMAN was in contact with one FRED BRIEHL, a well-known Communist in the New York City area. On January 16, 1946 BILL BROWDER, brother of EARL BROWDER, former Secretary of the COMMUNIST PARTY, USA, was in contact with BROTHMAN's office regarding his new enterprise, "Distributors Guide". Informant has also advised on several occasions that BROTHMAN has been in touch with several persons believed to be members of the COMMUNIST PARTY in New York City.

In view of the above information it is recommended that the services of Confidential Informant NYT-343 be continued.

Very truly yours,

  
E. E. CONROY  
SAC

FDO'B:MM  
65-14603

65-14603-924

New York, N. Y.

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 8, 1946

Director, FBI

Re: NATHAN GREGORY SILVERMASTER,  
with aliases, et al;  
ESPIONAGE - R


Dear Sir:

Confidential Informant NYT-358, whose services are being utilized in connection with the investigation of ABRAHAM BROTHMAN, President of the ABA Laboratories, 8503 - 57th Avenue, Elmhurst, Long Island, New York, telephone number NEwtown 9-6093, has furnished the following information of value to the above-captioned investigation:

On January 18, 1946, informant advised this office that BROTHMAN was out of town and had been staying at the home of FRED BRIEHL in Kingston, New York. The informant further advised at what time BROTHMAN would return to New York City; also, what his plans were for the immediate future.

Therefore, in view of the information submitted by the informant, it is suggested that the services of Confidential Informant 358 be continued.

Very truly yours,

  
E. E. CONROY,  
SAC

FDO'B:RAA  
65-14603

65-14603-952

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BY FILE NO. 65-14603-107

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/11/46</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1/3-2/5/46</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>EDWARD W. DOOLEY</b>
TITLE <b>PERSONAL &amp; CONFIDENTIAL</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE-R</b>
<p><b>"CHANGED":</b>  <b>✓ NATHAN GREGORY SILVERMASTER, was, N. Silvermaster,</b>  <b>Nathan Gregory Masters, Nathan Masters,</b>  <b>Serge Komov;</b></p>			

~~SYNOPSIS OF FACTS~~



OS

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:  <b>20</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES  <b>65-14603-964</b>
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TITLE (Cont'd.)

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ABRAHAM BROTHMAN, wa, Abe Brothman;

05

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SYNOPSIS:

[REDACTED] 05

Confidential Informant GREGORY believes one FRANK COB, of Treasury Department, furnished information to SILVERMASTERS sometimes via HARRY D. WHITE. Recalls also that NORMAN BURSLE (ph.), an attorney in Anti-Trust Division of Justice Department, furnished material to HELEN SILVERMASTER. "New York World-Telegram" article, 1-29-46, attacked excessive charges on packages sent to Russia via U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP. and WORLD TOURISTS. Did not name Informant or JOHN R. REYNOLDS. AMTORG has demanded copy of contract between U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING and INTOURIST; not furnished to date. Additional photos of Russian diplomatic personnel displayed to GREGORY with negative results.

[REDACTED]

ABRAHAM BROTHMAN's activities appear to be of business nature.

[REDACTED]

GREGORY failed to identify recent photo

of WEINSTEIN.

[REDACTED]

-P-

05

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent EDWARD W. DOOLEY, dated 1-28-46, at New York.

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[REDACTED]

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05



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Re: ABRAHAM BROTHMAN

The following investigation of the activities of ABRAHAM BROTHMAN covering the period from January 7 to February 4, 1946, is reported by Special Agent Francis D. O'Brien.

Confidential Informant NYT 343, whose identity is known to the Bureau, and who has observed the activities of BROTHMAN over a period of time, has advised that BROTHMAN has continued to work in his place of employment for the past month, with the exception of one week in January, which was believed to be January 7 to January 14, at which time BROTHMAN is reported to have been a guest of FRED BRIEHL, at his home in Kingston, New York. BRIEHL is a well-known Communist in the New York area.

In conjunction with BROTHMAN's activities of a business nature, Confidential Informant NYT 343 reported that BROTHMAN held a conference with a Mr. BOWEN of the BOWEN ENGINEERING COMPANY, Garwood, New Jersey, at which time BROTHMAN advised BOWEN that he was developing resins for the Chinese Government.

This same informant advised on February 4, 1946, that BROTHMAN indicated that he was desirous of publishing some articles on work in the chemical field and that he had contacted Mr. OLIVE of the MCGRAW HILL PUBLISHING COMPANY in connection with this publication.

From this same informant, it was learned that a Mr. LUDWIG MUSET held a conference with BROTHMAN and during this conference, BROTHMAN indicated that he felt he had developed a polymerization method that could be patented.

On January 16, 1946, Confidential Informant NYT 343 observed that BILL BROWDER, brother of EARL BROWDER, former Secretary of the Communist Party, USA, had been in touch with BROTHMAN's office in an attempt to interest them in his new pamphlet entitled, "Distributors Guide". This same informant has advised that BROTHMAN might possibly be attempting to do some technical work for the KAISER CORPORATION inasmuch as an official of that company had requested BROTHMAN's secretary to furnish the official with a biography of ABRAHAM BROTHMAN.

Confidential Informant NYT 343 has advised that on January 22, 1945, one MILLY conferred with MIRIAM MARKOWITZ, secretary to ABRAHAM BROTHMAN, and asked her if she were doing anything to better herself as a

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a Communist Party member, stating that she has removed herself from the struggle. Continuing, MILLY told MIRIAM that she had no excuse now, inasmuch as she did not have to worry about her boss. (Apparently refers to BROTHMAN.) MILLY told MIRIAM that she should arrange her work so that she could go to the club and help out on the picket lines and also to do something in her community to let the people know what is going on and to combat the Christian frontists. MIRIAM agreed with MILLY and she promised that she would shortly be back in the field. Further investigation of the activities of MIRIAM MARKOWITZ is to be conducted and will be reported in the near future.

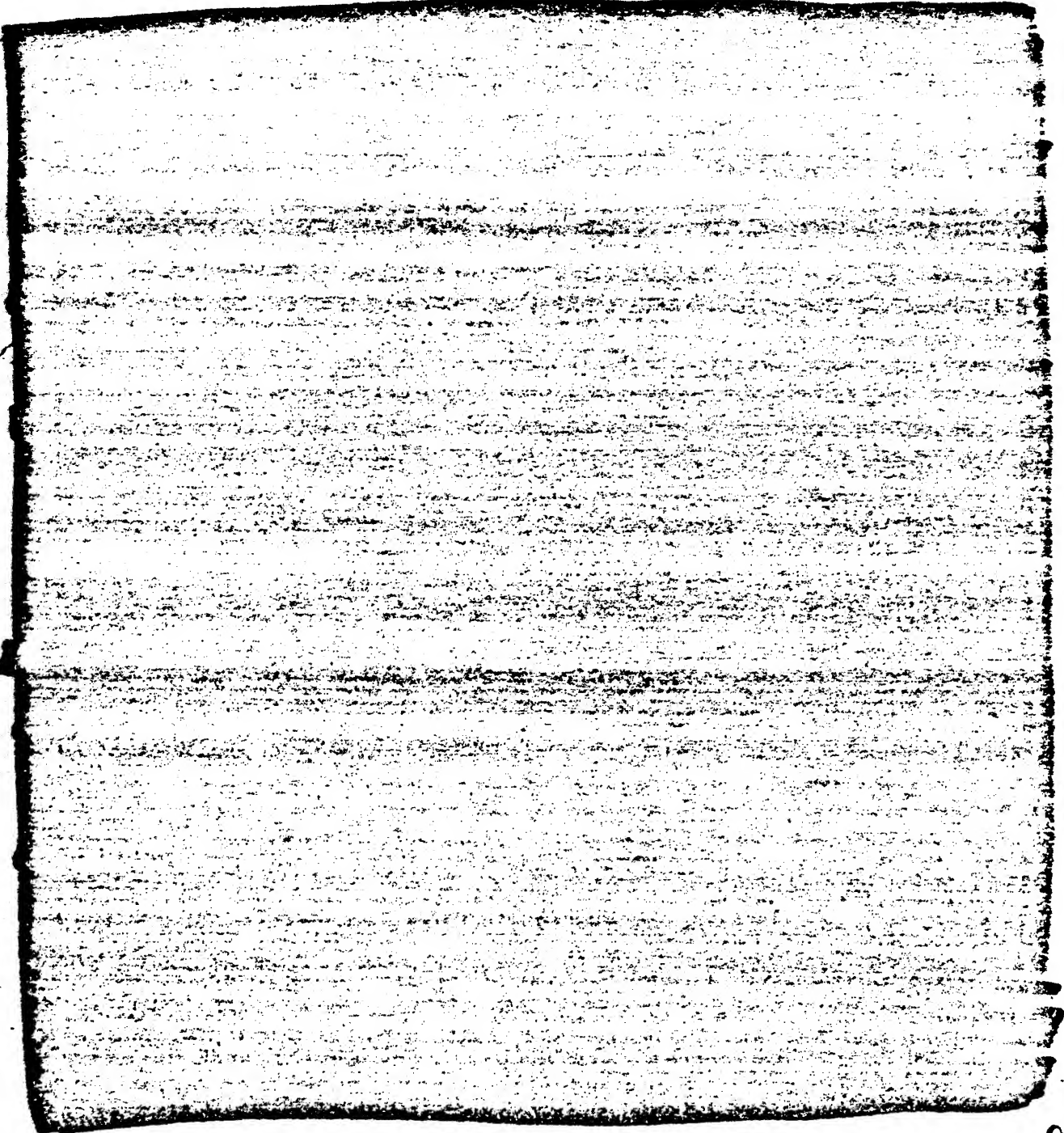
A mail cover has been placed on the business house of ABRAHAM BROTHMAN, 114 East 32 Street, New York City, and it appears that most of the mail received by the firm has been from legitimate business contacts. However, on January 22, 1946, a letter was addressed to ABRAHAM BROTHMAN ASSOCIATES, 114 East 32 Street, from the "MUSIC ROOM", 129 West 44 Street, New York City. The "MUSIC ROOM" is owned and operated by ERIC BERNAY and there is an active investigation being conducted in the New York Field Division on ERIC BERNAY. The character of this case is Internal Security-R.



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Re: Mrs. RAY ELSON, with alias

The following investigative activity concerning Mrs. RAY ELSON, 161 West 16 Street, New York City, is reported by Special Agent HOWARD R. HAWKINS.



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On January 24 at 4:35 p.m. an incoming unanswered call was reported. On the same date at 7 p.m. confidential informant GREGORY spoke to RAY. GREGORY told RAY not to be alarmed at anything she might see in the newspapers in the next few days. She told RAY the NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM had investigated WORLD TOURISTS. GREGORY said that as far as she could see this story would not involve either RAY or herself, and added that she saw it coming, but could do nothing about it. It was also stated by GREGORY that BERDANSKY is "in the middle" and has been complaining to GREGORY that he got into something that he knew nothing about. RAY and GREGORY made a date for dinner on January 31 and agreed to meet at 7 p.m. at CHUMLEY'S restaurant. RAY was to be accompanied at this time by her husband.

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[REDACTED] OS

On January 31 at 9:30 a.m. RAY left her residence and proceeded to her place of employment, where she entered at 10 a.m. She left this address at 1:15 p.m. with an unknown woman believed to be a fellow employee. They had lunch at the Famous Sea Food House, 651 Third Avenue and at 2:05 p.m. they returned to the NFCL offices. The unknown woman mentioned above, with whom RAY ELSON had lunch on January 31, was believed to be the same woman that she had lunch with on January 29, and whose description is set forth above.

RAY left the NFCL offices at 5:55 p.m. and returned directly to her residence. At 7 p.m. she reappeared, accompanied by her husband. They proceeded to CHUMLEY'S restaurant, 86 Beaver Street, where they spent the evening with confidential informant GREGORY.

[REDACTED] OS

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Re: Confidential Informant GREGORY

The following is being dictated by Special Agents Thomas G. Spencer and Joseph M. Kelly:

On January 22, 1946 Confidential Informant GREGORY telephonically advised that she had just received a call from LOUIS BERDANSKY at WORLD TOURISTS, INC., indicating that NELSON FRANK of the NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM had been to the office of WORLD TOURISTS, INC. attempting to get some information relative to the manner in which packages were shipped to Russia by this company. It also appeared that FRANK had interrogated BERDANSKY concerning the amount of duties that were charged on these particular shipments and a great deal of information relative to the manner in which the entire business of package shipments to Russia is carried on by this corporation.

BERDANSKY informed FRANK that U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP. actually held a contract for the shipment of these packages to Russia and that WORLD TOURISTS, INC. merely acted as exclusive agents for the Metropolitan New York area for U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP.

It also appears that at the conclusion of the interview between FRANK and BERDANSKY, FRANK intimated that he was going to write an expose concerning what he termed the excessive duties, insurance rates and handling charges imposed on packages sent from this country to Russia and gave the impression that the article would be highly critical.

Subsequently, Confidential Informant GREGORY again communicated with the New York Office and advised that she had received a telephone call from NELSON FRANK on that day and that he asked her several questions relative to the firm's business along the same lines as described above. He also intimated to GREGORY that he was desirous of seeing her concerning this matter, and told her he was making an effort to ascertain all possible facts bearing on the package business between this country and the U.S.S.R.

According to information supplied by Confidential Informant NYT-337, whose identity is known to the Bureau, Informant GREGORY, on January 22, 1946, communicated with C. E. BANNERMAN of the law firm of CLARK, CARR & ELLIS, which handles the legal matters for U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP. and explained NELSON FRANK's interest in the affairs of both WORLD TOURISTS, INC. and U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP. According to Informant NYT-337, BANNERMAN informed GREGORY that there was nothing that he could do and that if the newspaper people desired to interview her and subsequently print a story regarding both corporations there was nothing that could be done about this.

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The following day NELSON FRANK appeared at the office of Confidential Informant GREGORY and asked her a large number of questions concerning the operations of the firm; mainly they dealt with customs, insurance rates, inspection, packing and handling fees which the American shipper would have to pay to send packages to Russia. According to Informant GREGORY, FRANK obviously had done considerable investigating along this line and already possessed the information that WORLD TOURISTS, INC. had been incorporated originally in 1927 by three members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, namely, JOSEPH R. BRODSKY, ROBERT WIENER and ALXANDER TRACHTENBERG.

FRANK also told informant that he had learned one JOHN H. REYNOLDS was presently president of the U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP., asked her for some identifying data concerning REYNOLDS, and also if he were a Communist, to which informant replied that he was not a party member. This line of questioning was pursued further by FRANK who then asked informant if she is or ever has been a Communist Party member and she replied emphatically in the negative. He then requested informant to make available the books and records of U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP. to him, but this request was refused.

It was the impression gained by the informant during this conference with FRANK that the latter's article would be very critical of the charges which have to be paid by a package shipper and that the firm as well as the U.S.S.R. would probably appear in a bad light.

Although FRANK appeared to have considerable knowledge of the corporate structure of both WORLD TOURISTS, INC. and U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP., he did not in any way indicate that he knew or suspected that 75% of the original investment in U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP. was made by the Communist Party and neither the name of EARL BROWDER nor of LEM HARRIS was mentioned. After being told by informant that REYNOLDS was not a party member, FRANK asked no further questions about him, but did indicate that he knew REYNOLDS was presently on active duty with the U. S. Army.

After the above information had been received by the Agents from the informant, it was decided that it would be advisable if the informant immediately contacted EARL BROWDER and told him of the imminent publicity concerning her firm. It was felt that this move by her would further ingratiate her with BROWDER and when the plan was discussed with her she agreed that it would have a good effect on him.



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That same day Informant GREGORY did, in fact, meet BROWDER at Grand Central Terminal and told him of the visits received by BERDANSKY and herself. According to her, he was not at all excited about the prospect and told her "You are receiving your first public baptism of fire." Nothing further believed pertinent occurred during this conference between informant and BROWDER.

On January 24, 1946 Special Agents Francis D. O'Brien and Thomas G. Spencer met informant for a brief time and discussed with her in detail the events which had been previously reported by her on the telephone.

On January 30, 1946 Informant GREGORY was interviewed by Special Agents Thomas G. Spencer and Joseph M. Kelly and in discussing generally the SILVERMASTERS and the people who were associated with them during the time she was active in Russian espionage activities, she recalled one individual who was associated with the SILVERMASTER crowd who she had failed to mention at the time the signed statement of November 30, 1945 was taken. She stated that this individual is FRANK COE who, at the time she first became aware of his identity, was in the U. S. Treasury Department, though his exact title or position was not known to her. COE was, to the informant's recollection, in South America on some mission for the Treasury Department during all but two months of the time that she knew that he was in contact with the SILVERMASTERS. It was also her recollection that COE was communicating directly from South America with the SILVERMASTERS in Washington, D. C. and sending them reports and other information that he gathered while in Latin America.

The informant also stated that she is of the opinion that COE also sent information to HARRY WHITE in Washington, D. C. and while COE was in South America and also believes that he made information available to WHITE while he, COE, was in the United States. She further believes that the information supplied by COE to WHITE eventually was turned over to the SILVERMASTER group.

She could not recall definitely having seen any material that she could identify as having originated with COE, but did state that the information supplied by him in these personal communications would be digested and turned over to her for transmittal to her superiors. Informant's recollection of the type of information supplied by COE is vague, except that it was economic data and she said that he was relatively unimportant to the group.

On January 29, 1946 there appeared in the NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM an article entitled "Russia Tariff on Relief Food Curbs U.S.A.", written by

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NELSON FRANK. By letter on that date the Bureau was supplied with copies of this article. It is to be noted that the names of informant, JOHN H. REYNOLDS, and U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP. were not mentioned in the write-up, although mention was made of WORLD TOURISTS, INC. and its original incorporation by Communist Party members.

On that same date Informant GREGORY telephonically advised the New York Office that she had been greatly relieved to see that the article was not as detailed as it might have been and further that she had telephonically discussed it with Lieutenant Colonel REYNOLDS who was also pleased that the newspaper story was brief and omitted their names.

On January 31, 1946 informant telephonically advised Special Agent Kelly that she had just received a telephone call from one ISIDOR NEEDELMAN who had described himself as an attorney for the AMTORG TRADING CORP., and who requested that she furnish him a copy of the contract between U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP. and INTOURIST. Informant asked the reason for the request and was told by NEEDELMAN that it was routine matter and that, as everyone knew, AMTORG is in charge of all commercial relations between this country and the U.S.S.R. Informant declined to furnish the desired copy and asked NEEDELMAN why he had not requested INTOURIST, Moscow to furnish a copy of the contract. He gave no direct answer to this, but repeated his request, which again was refused and he abruptly ended the conversation.

On February 1, 1946 Informant GREGORY advised Special Agents Spencer and Kelly that shortly after NEEDELMAN had concluded the telephone conversation above described on the previous day, she had received a call from one AGAPOV, who identified himself as the secretary of AMTORG. Informant continued that AGAPOV summarily repeated the demand made earlier by NEEDELMAN for a copy of the contract and was very curt and demanding in his tone. Informant asked him the reason for his request and he answered along the same lines as had NEEDELMAN. When asked why he did not request INTOURIST, Moscow to furnish him the paper he said that procedure would entail delay of two or three months and that it was imperative that he have this copy in 24 hours.

Informant remonstrated with him and he reminded her that AMTORG allocates all shipping space on vessels between this country and the U.S.S.R.; that naturally packages handled by her firm could not move if proper space were not provided and very plainly threatened that if the copy of the contract he had requested were not forthcoming within 24 hours U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP. might well find itself without any shipping space. After AGAPOV became specially belligerent, informant reminded him that her firm was a corporation, and that she necessarily would have to confer with

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Colonel REYNOLDS before she could give him a definite answer and told him it would be several days before a decision could be reached. He finally agreed to give her 3 or 4 days to produce the contract.

After this conversation, according to informant, she discussed the request in detail with Colonel REYNOLDS, who has been confined to his home by illness, and learned that his reaction was to reject the request from AMTORG and to dispatch a strong cable to INTOURIST, Moscow protesting the request and asking why AMTORG should be entitled to a copy of contract.

With respect to the contract existing between INTOURIST and the U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP., it will be recalled that this agreement was originally entered into in March, 1941 for a period of 2 years; that relations continued after the expiration date for some months on the same terms, and that finally in October, 1945, after prolonged discussions between informant and AL (GROMOV), the latter promised to secure an extension of it. Five days after he made this promise to the informant the firm received a cable from INTOURIST, Moscow extending the contract under the original terms until October 31, 1946.

It was learned that since the contract was originally executed GOLOS, Colonel REYNOLDS and GREGORY all had been summoned to the Russian Consulate in New York City on different occasions to discuss the agreement; and although no outright demand was ever made by the Consulate officials that the contract be terminated, it was the informant's distinct impression that its existence was not looked upon favorably by the Consulate. She said that on GOLOS' instructions she and Colonel REYNOLDS always told the Consulate officials as little as possible about the contractual terms and the volume of profits of the business.

It will be recalled that information has previously been supplied to the Bureau in the case entitled "SODAC, New York City; ESPIONAGE - R", relative to the interest displayed in this contract by PAVEL MIKHAILOV, former Acting Consul General in New York City; CHARLES RECHT, attorney for the New York Consulate, and the AMALGAMATED BANK OF NEW YORK.

Informant stated that since her recollection of FRANK COE's association with the SILVERMASTER group she had gone over in her mind all of the people that she knew or had reason to believe were connected in some way with the Russian Intelligence group while she was actively participating in it. She stated that she now recalls that one NORMAN BURSLEER (phonetic) was connected with the SILVERMASTER group.

She stated that on one of the occasions when she was talking to



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HELEN SILVERMASTER in Washington, D. C., HELEN told her that she had been seeing BURSLEER quite frequently and felt that because of BURSLEER's connection with the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice he might be a good person to bring into the group. On her return to New York City she discussed this matter with GOLOS who stated that he was somewhat skeptical of BURSLEER and felt that he might possibly be a "plant", but that if the SILVERMASTERS were favorably impressed and trusted him that the SILVERMASTER group might deal directly with BURSLEER and, of course, to furnish the informant with any information that he was able to supply.

Subsequently Informant GREGORY told HELEN SILVERMASTER of GOLOS' opinion in this situation and HELEN SILVERMASTER arranged to obtain the information from him.

Informant subsequently learned that BURSLEER was assigned to the New York Office of the Anti-Trust Division and was concerned with the investigation of German cartels. It also appears that shortly after BURSLEER first became known to the informant he was inducted into the U. S. Army, but was released after a short time because of some physical defect and again took up his position with the Anti-Trust Division of the Department. Sometime in the summer of 1944 HELEN SILVERMASTER turned over to the informant a quantity of material and the informant noticed that some of this material contained information relative to German cartels. She indicated to HELEN that she knew the source of this particular material, naming, of course, BURSLEER, and HELEN SILVERMASTER acknowledged that it came from this individual.

The informant is unable to recall that she received any other information that she could definitely ascribe to BURSLEER and it will be recalled that some few months later she disassociated <sup>herself</sup> from the SILVERMASTER group. Informant advised that she has never met BURSLEER and has no information as to his background or otherwise that would assist in further identifying him.

Also on the occasion of this interview it was learned that the informant had dined the preceding evening with JOSEPH and RAY ELSON, and in accordance with instructions, had again mentioned that she was spending a good deal of time with her dentist. The ELSONS then began a discussion of their present dental treatment and informant learned that their dentist, whom neither named, was a former employer of Mrs. ELSON and apparently maintains a rather large office inasmuch as there are four or five other dentists associated with him in what appears to be a semi-cooperative or profit-sharing enterprise. Further, that this former employer had been doing

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their work for some years, and that although he was now very successful and charged high fees for his work, he continued to treat them because they had always paid him promptly when he was struggling to build up a practice and apparently appreciated their earlier patronage. Both JOSEPH and RAY ELSON went so far as to display to informant the results of the dental treatment they are presently receiving and informant stated conclusively that there was no question but that they were, in fact, being treated by a dentist.

In order to foreclose any doubt, informant remarked to JOSEPH ELSON that it would have been much more economical for him if he had received dental care while in the Army. ELSON agreed that he could have been treated without charge, but said that Army dentists were too careless, their work for the most part was poor, and that he had decided to have his work done by a competent man. Informant was unable to learn from them if their dentist was a Communist Party member, but RAY mentioned that he was a "good type".

While JOSEPH ELSON was temporarily absent from the company of his wife and informant, the latter learned that RAY was greatly worried at the present time because of the investigation being conducted by the Committee on Un-American Activities of the House of Representatives, particularly as it affects the FEDERATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES, her present employer. She said that the FEDERATION had desired to place her in an important position in the group, it wanted her to do contact work on its behalf, which endeavor naturally would result in some publicity and that she had refused because she did not want to become at all conspicuous in its operations and wanted to avoid all public attention as far as possible.

She seemed very concerned about the prospect of the files of the FEDERATION being seized by the Committee and was in a generally nervous condition. Informant told her of the telephone call she had received from AMTORG relative to their desire for a copy of the existing contract between that company and INTOURIST, but no significant comment was forthcoming from RAY.

A recent photograph of Dr. A. B. WEINSTEIN obtained by Agents of this office during a surveillance of him was exhibited to the informant; however, she was unable to identify him.

Under date of January 28, 1946 the Washington Field Division supplied the New York Office with additional photographs of Russian diplomatic

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personnel and the photographs of the following individuals were exhibited to her. She did not, however, make an identification of any of these individuals.

Captain MIKHAIL NIKOLAEVICH DOROKHOV

Lieutenant Colonel BORIS DANILOVICH VASSILIEV

YURI VLADIMIROVICH MARUNOV

PETER SEMENOVICH MOTINOV

Lieutenant Colonel MIKHAIL NIKITEVICH KEROLENKO

Lieutenant Colonel ALEKSANDR IVANOVICH RODIONOV

NIKOLAI PETROVICH OUSPENSKY

NIKOLAI IVANOVICH MOLIAKOV

Lieutenant Colonel ANATOLI YAKOVLEVICH GAIKOVSKIY

Lieutenant Colonel VLADIMIR VASILIEVICH MAKSIMOVICH

Captain ALEKSANDR FEDOROVICH BELIKOV

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **65-14603** **W**

<b>REPORT MADE AT</b> <b>NEW YORK</b>	<b>DATE WHEN MADE</b> <b>3/1/46</b>	<b>PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE</b> <b>1/14-2/20/46</b>	<b>REPORT MADE BY</b> <b>STUART L. HOLLY</b>
<b>TITLE</b> <b>PERSONAL &amp; CONFIDENTIAL</b> <b>"CHARLES"</b> <b>NATHAN GREGORY SILVERMASTER, WAS</b> <b>N. Silvermaster, Nathan Gregory Masters,</b> <b>Nathan Masters, Serge Lomov, George Stewart;</b>			<b>CHARACTER OF CASE</b> <b>ESPIONAGE-R</b>
<b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 400px; margin-top: 10px;"></div>			
<b>APPROVED AND FORWARDED</b> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>		<b>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</b> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>	
<b>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</b> <b>5 - Bureau</b> <b>2 - Washington</b> <b>3 - New York</b>		<b>DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</b> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">             65-14603-1058           </div>	

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NY 65-14603

TITLE (Cont'd.)

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AMERICAN IN THOSE, re, the Prothman;

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REPORTS

[REDACTED]

ARMED PARTMAN apparently engaged in usual business activities.

[REDACTED] 05

EARL BROWER advised JACK WYNOLDS to repay LEE BROWER and THE BATES the \$15,000 advanced from CP funds and thereafter to have no association with them. BROWER discussed proposed trip to Russia with ORGON and WYNOLDS and indicated he may have Russian contact in US. He claims his expulsion from CP result of conniving between JACQUES WYNOLDS and WILLIAM F. FOSTER. BROWER and WYNOLDS attribute Canadian spy round-up to recent differences between Government representatives of Britain, U.S. and Russia. No developments re ANTONIO's demand for contract between INTOURIST and U.S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP. "Miss WHITE", identified as "ELIS WHITE", is not connected with case.

[REDACTED] Surveillance

being maintained on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 05

-P-

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent Edward W. Dooley, dated 2/11/46 at New York.  
Bureau letter to New York dated 2/5/46.



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[REDACTED]	
SIA BORTSOVA PRADINA	66.
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	

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RE: ABRAHAM BROTHMAN

The following investigation of the activities of ABRAHAM BROTHMAN covering the period from February 5, 1946 to February 19, 1946, is reported by Special Agent FRANCIS D. O'BRIEN:

Confidential Informant NYT-343, who is in a position to observe BROTHMAN's activities, has advised that BROTHMAN continues to go to his place of business daily, and has noted the following information concerning BROTHMAN's activities:

BROTHMAN, according to the informant, has been in close touch with BERNARD O. KOOPMAN, an Associate Professor in Mathematics at Columbia University. The informant advised that on February 7, 1946, BROTHMAN held a conference with KOOPMAN, at which time they agreed to meet in KOOPMAN's room in the King's Crown Hotel, 420 West 116th Street, New York City, at 3:30 P.M. on February 13, 1946.

At 3:30 P.M. on February 13, 1946, Special Agent LAWRENCE W. SPILLANE and reporting agent were present in the lobby of the King's Crown Hotel, 420 West 116th Street, New York City, at which time BROTHMAN entered the hotel and was heard to make inquiry for Professor KOOPMAN. The clerk replied that Professor KOOPMAN was in room 512. BROTHMAN then entered the elevator and proceeded to the fifth floor.

On February 18, 1946, it was ascertained through Mr. HARRY T. ARRAS, Assistant Manager, King's Crown Hotel, that BERNARD O. KOOPMAN had registered at the hotel on February 11, 1946, and had given his address as 1305 Cleveland Street, Alexandria, Virginia. According to Mr. ARRAS, KOOPMAN is a Professor at Columbia University and has registered at the hotel for a duration of several days at a time during the past two months. Mr. ARRAS also stated that Professor KOOPMAN desired to obtain permanent residence at the King's Crown Hotel.

On February 18, 1946, Mr. PHILLIP M. HAYDEN, Secretary, Columbia University, New York City, advised that the biography that Columbia University has on BERNARD O. KOOPMAN reflects that KOOPMAN was born in Paris, France, January 1900, exact date not known, and that he was a citizen of the United States, source of citizenship not given. KOOPMAN graduated from Harvard University in 1924, and received a P.h.D. from that University in 1926. He has been a member of the faculty at Columbia University since 1928, at which



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time he was appointed Assistant Professor of Mathematics, holding this position until 1940, at which time he was appointed an Associate Professor in Mathematics.

In March of 1944, Professor KOOFFMAN obtained a leave of absence to go to Harvard University where it was believed he was to work on some type of work for the United States Government, (this information not confirmed, but was a statement made by Mr. HAYDEN, which he stated was his belief).

On December 31, 1945, Professor KOOFFMAN returned to Columbia University and has been active on the staff since that time.

On February 10, 1946, confidential informant NYI-343 advised that Professor KOOFFMAN held a conference with ABE BROTHMAN, and during the conference told BROTHMAN that he had broken down the differential equation problem and that he would meet BROTHMAN for dinner at the Faculty Club, Columbia University, and show the problem to him.

The following activities of the associates of ABRAHAM BROTHMAN in his Laboratory were reported by confidential informant NYI-343:

On February 9, 1946, JAMES KORCHIEN, an associate of BROTHMAN, reported to BROTHMAN that he had been to Washington, D. C., and that he had seen the President's Housing Plan and had talked with the Housing Expeditor. In conjunction with this information, the informant advised that on February 14, 1946, KORCHIEN was in touch with one GARY GOLD, at which time KORCHIEN indicated that he desired to be placed on the New York City Housing Authority and that there were two non-paying jobs vacant, and that he, KORCHIEN, felt that his name should be put forward on the basis of his CIO and ALP connections and being in the housing business.

It is to be noted that JAMES KORCHIEN is a key figure in the Communist Party in New York City and is the subject of an active case file entitled "JAMES KORCHIEN; INTERNAL SECURITY - C."

On February 11, 1946, this same informant advised that GUS, believed to be GERRIT POLLAK, a subject of an active INTERNAL SECURITY - C investigation in the New York City Field Division, had made his "point" at a meeting which included his Club President and the Section Organizer, and that they were

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to take it up with the Section Committee.

A mail cover has been continued on all mail for ABRAHAM BROTHMAN, and to date the mail received by him appears to have been from legitimate business contacts.

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RE: CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT GREGORY

The following is being dictated by Special Agents THOMAS G. SPENCER and JOSEPH W. KELLY and represents the results of conversations with confidential informant GREGORY for the period February 11, 1946 to February 19, 1946.

On February 15, 1946 informant advised that in accordance with instructions earlier given to her by Colonel JOHN W. REYNOLDS, she telephonically communicated with EARL BROWDER at the latter's office on February 11, 1946 and made an appointment to see him that day. The purpose of this meeting was to extend an invitation to BROWDER and his wife to be dinner guests at the REYNOLDS' apartment on February 18, 1946; the purpose of this invitation to the BROWDERs was so that REYNOLDS might secure BROWDER's advice on the subject of a proposed expansion of the U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP. and also to request BROWDER to do some errands if his proposed trip to Russia materializes. According to the informant BROWDER gladly accepted this invitation and arrangements were made for informant to meet him on Fifth Avenue and 43rd Street on February 18, 1946 and accompany him to the REYNOLDS home at 825 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

No other information believed pertinent was developed by informant on the occasion of this conversation with BROWDER.

During the course of this same interview confidential informant GREGORY made available to the Agents a mimeographed bulletin entitled, "APPEAL OF EARL BROWDER TO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE C.P.U.S.A. Against the DECISION OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF FEBRUARY 5th, 1946 FOR HIS EXPELLION". It was noted that the envelope in which this pamphlet was mailed to the informant bore the return address of W. E. BRANCH, 38 West 9th Street, New York, New York, and was postmarked at the West 43rd Street station.

Special Agent FREDERICK C. ZINCK, of the New York Field Division, who is familiar with the activities of WILLIAM BROWDER, advised that W. E. BRANCH is known to him as one of the aliases used by WILLIAM BROWDER, brother of EARL BROWDER, and that 38 West 9th Street is known to him as the present residence of WILLIAM BROWDER. The informant was somewhat mystified by the name and address of the sender on the envelope but did recall that the telephone for the BROWDER summer home, near Monroe, New York, was listed under the name of W. E. BRANCH, and she said she had always assumed this was a friend of the family. Also on this occasion informant made available an issue of

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"Distributors Guide" dated February 16, 1946.

With reference to the dinner to be held at the home of Colonel REYNOLDS, it was suggested to the informant that she attempt to develop in conversation with BROWDER what assurances, if any, he has received from Russian authorities that he will be granted a Russian visa in the event his United States passport is granted. It was also requested that she attempt to learn if possible who was underwriting the expenses of this proposed trip and further, what the real object of the trip is. Informant was likewise requested to attempt to learn who, if anyone, planned to accompany BROWDER and the anticipated duration of his stay in Russia.

On February 19, 1946 informant GREGORY on interview advised that in accordance with the plans made earlier, she had accompanied EARL BROWDER to the REYNOLDS apartment on the evening of February 18, 1946 and that BROWDER had remained there for approximately two hours. Informant reported that BROWDER was consulted by Colonel REYNOLDS as to what procedure he should follow with reference to the monetary demands reported hereinbefore as having been made by LEO HARRIS and more lately by TED BAYER and after some discussion BROWDER advised REYNOLDS to repay to them the \$15,000 originally advanced from COMMUNIST PARTY funds and thereafter to have no association whatsoever with them.

With reference to his proposed trip to Russia BROWDER informed that he has neither sought nor received any assurances or promises from the Russians that a visa will be granted to him in the event he receives an American passport and added that he supposed a waiting period of approximately one month would be required for it after he received his passport. Informant further reported that she mentioned that probably some persons in the United States, like EDWIN CARTER, of Russian War Relief, could expedite matters for him but BROWDER indicated that he could expect no assistance from such sources. He remarked that his application has been pending for five or six weeks and that he has heard nothing from it; he explained to the informant that an interdepartmental committee, including an FBI representative, passed on all requests for passports and that he supposed the FBI was holding his up. He jokingly

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remarked that he imagined the FBI thought he had the secret of the atom bomb in his pocket and further, that he was probably thought to be identical with ARTHUR ADAMSON, alleged Soviet spy, whose activities have been publicized in the "New York Journal American".

Informant learned in addition that if BROWDER secures his passport and necessary visas he plans to go abroad sometime in March, 1946 and to remain out of the country for a month or so. He did not indicate directly the exact object of his trip to Russia, but insinuated that he had a definite idea of the person whom he wanted to see over there. According to the informant BROWDER did not even indicate if his trip was in connection with Party affairs or was on commercial business, but informant is definitely of the opinion that BROWDER is going mainly to attempt to regain favor of the inner councils in Moscow.

There was also some discussion between BROWDER and REYNOLDS as to the reason for the former's expulsion from the Party and BROWDER placed most of the blame on WILLIAM Z. FOSTER and indicated that the present ruling clique of the Party was too stupid to realize that the United States was adaptable only to modified Communism, such as BROWDER favored during the war.

REYNOLDS asked BROWDER if the latter would be able to take care of some matters for him with respect to the U. S. SERVICE & WHIPPING CORP. while in Moscow and BROWDER enthusiastically replied that he would be glad to do anything along this line that he could. It was agreed that there would be a further conference between the two, in the event BROWDER's trip materializes.

During the general discussion REYNOLDS asked BROWDER if he had any Russian contacts in the United States and BROWDER replied that he had no contact with the Russians except where matters of Party policy were concerned; according to informant he then quickly explained that of course he meant the COMMUNIST PARTY headquarters in downtown New York City. It was the informant's opinion, however, that BROWDER, who was drinking considerably during the evening, probably was accurate in his first statement when he indicated that he did in fact have some Russian contact in this country. In the general discussion which resulted after REYNOLDS asked the reason for BROWDER's expulsion from the Party, BROWDER related the following sequence of events, which is believed to be of interest generally.

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He stated it was his opinion that WILLIAM Z. FOSTER had made arrangements through GIUSEPPE BERTI and AMBROGIO DOMINI, Italian Communists, who for a time were associated with L'Unita del Popolo, for them through underground sources in Italy to contact JACQUES DUCLOS, prominent French Communist and that the latter would prepare a bitter public denunciation of BROWDER, thereby gaining considerable prestige and possibly overshadowing MADRICE THOREZ, another prominent French Communist. It apparently was BROWDER's idea that DUCLOS could be influenced to take this action by suggestions that he would become the most prominent Communist in France, with FOSTER to assume the position held by BROWDER, and that the two leaders could work in close harmony. Informant was unable to conclude if this series of events as narrated by BROWDER were strictly a matter of conjecture with him or whether they were based at least partly on fact. It would, however, from the above remarks made by BROWDER, seem to be his opinion that the DUCLOS attack on him was not Moscow inspired but rather the result of conniving between DUCLOS and WILLIAM Z. FOSTER.

Informant was also able to learn during the dinner that BROWDER is having 40,000 copies of his "defense" printed and distributed generally to COMMUNIST PARTY members and further, that HAROLD SMITH, who has been his secretary for some years, recently resigned because he "couldn't stand the pressure any longer". BROWDER told informant that insofar as he knew SMITH was unemployed at the present time.

Informant reported in addition that during the evening there was considerable discussion between REYNOLDS and BROWDER as to the current articles in the press relative to the round-up of alleged Russian spies in Canada, and that both agreed such newspaper stories were probably for the purpose of discrediting Russia and that what action had been taken by the Canadian authorities was undoubtedly traceable to the difficulties between Secretary of State BIRNEY and Foreign Commissar MOLOTOV at the conference of foreign ministers and, more lately, the dispute between ANDRZEJ WISNIEWSKI and ERNEST BEVIN.

It was noted by the informant that when BROWDER was leaving the REYNOLDS apartment, Colonel REYNOLDS gave him a sum of money and a bottle of Scotch Whiskey as a "consultation fee", ostensibly in payment for his advisory services in connection with the affairs of the U. S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP. It was further reported by the informant that her firm has received no reply to date to the cable dispatch to INTOURISI, Moscow, with reference to the demand made by AMTORG for a copy of the contract existing between INTOURIST and U.S. SERVICE & SHIPPING CORP. and also that there has been no further demand from AMTORG in New York City for a copy of this contract.



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Reference is made to the report of Special Agent EDWARD M. DOOLEY dated at New York City January 28 in this investigation concerning one "Miss WHITE". Confidential informant GREGORY advised that she has been recontacted by this individual who is in fact IRIS WHITE, a casual acquaintance of the informant's who she met sometime ago, when she was on vacation in Vermont.

Special Agent JAMES E. McGNATH discreetly determined that NORMAN BURSNER, who has previously been referred to, is presently in the Antitrust Division in New York City but expects to resign March 1, 1946 to return to private practice in Chicago.

With reference to the Bureau letter dated January 15, 1946, in instant matter, requesting that a photograph of ISIDORE GIBBY NEEDLEMAN be secured and displayed to Confidential Informant GREGORY, it is desired to point out that this individual is undoubtedly identical with the NEEDLEMAN who telephoned GREGORY from the office of the Amorg Trading Company, the details of which are set out in the report of Special Agent Edward M. Dooley dated February 11, 1946, at New York City. As explained therein, GREGORY did not know NEEDLEMAN by name, and during the numerous times she was interviewed by Agents of this Division she has never referred to any individual who is at all close to the physical description of NEEDLEMAN; it is to be noted that a review of the New York file on NEEDLEMAN reflects that he is partially paralyzed and goes about with a great deal of difficulty. A complete description of NEEDLEMAN, however, has been furnished to GREGORY, and she is unable to identify this man as anyone whom she has ever known or seen. Inasmuch as no photograph of him is presently available it is not believed possible that GREGORY could identify him among the persons involved in instant case and accordingly no further action is being taken with respect to NEEDLEMAN.

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Re: OLGA BORISOVNA PRAVDINA, with alias Margaret

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent Michael M. O'Rourke from February 4 to February 19, 1946. OLGA has been on constant physical surveillance from February 1 to February 19, 1946. Surveilling agents are P. J. Nolan, J. M. Doyle, Joseph C. Walsh and Howard C. Klebo.



NY 65-14603



of CUCK are continuing with a view to ascertaining the identity of CATHERINE and BILL, unidentified subjects mentioned by Informant GIBSON in this case.

Surveillance

05



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO. 65-14603

JN:GIB:

234 U. S. Court House  
Foley Square  
New York, 7, N. Y.

March 4, 1946

Postmaster  
U. S. Post Office  
Long Island City, 1, N. Y.

RE: H. GREGORY SILVERMASTER, WAS, ETAL  
ESPIONAGE R.

Dear Sir:

In connection with an investigation being conducted by this Bureau, it is requested that a cover be ~~placed~~ <sup>requested</sup> on all mail, including special delivery and registered mail, of the following for a period of thirty days:

ABRAHAM BROTHMAN  
41-08 42nd Street  
Sunnyside, 4, L. I.

☒ return cards

☐ tracings

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Special Agent in Charge

65-14603-1072

New York, N. Y.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

March 5, 1946

Director, FBI

Re: NATHAN GREGORY SILVERMASTER,  
with aliases, et al;  
ESPIONAGE - R

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to New York teletype to the Bureau of March 4, 1946, setting out information to the effect that URSULA WASSERMAN, a contact of JULIUS ROSENBERG, associate of ABRAHAM BROTHMAN, departed from the United States via the S. S. Pacific Express for Buenos Aires at 5:00 p.m., March 1 instant.

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EWD:PAA  
65-14603

65-14603-1081

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FWD:RAA  
65-14603

NEW YORK, N.Y.  
MARCH 6, 1946

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E.A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU  
SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD (URGENT)

/NATHAN GREGORY SILVERMASTER, WAS, ETAL. ESPIONAGE R.

[REDACTED]

05

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE ADVISED THAT ABRAHAM BROTHMAN  
DISCUSSED WINSTON CHURCHILLS SPEECH OF YESTERDAY WITH ONE GERTRUDE,

Approved: C.E.C. [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 206P M Per [Signature]

65-14603-1087

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

NY 65-14603

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MARCH 6, 1946

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

- 2 -

WHO ATTACKED THE SPEECH AS FASCIST PROPAGANDA, ETC. BROTHMAN SAID, "ALL THIS IS SOUND AND FURY IN CANADA AND THE US. THROUGHOUT THE CAPITALIST WORLD TODAY IS FULL KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY CANNOT UNDERTAKE A WAR AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. THEIR OWN POPULATIONS WOULD NOT FOLLOW THEM. THE WORLD IS ON FIRE. THE PRESTIGE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE AND OF AMERICA HAS FALLEN SO SHARPLY WITHIN RECENT WEEKS, IT HAS BEEN SO CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THESE COUNTRIES ARE IMPERIALIST AND OUT FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF ENSLAVING THE REST OF THE WORLD." BROTHMAN/CONTINUES IN THIS VEIN, COMPLETELY RATIONALIZING ACTIVITIES AND ATTITUDE OF RUSSIA WHILE CONDEMNING THE US.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

05

CONROY

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIDENTIAL

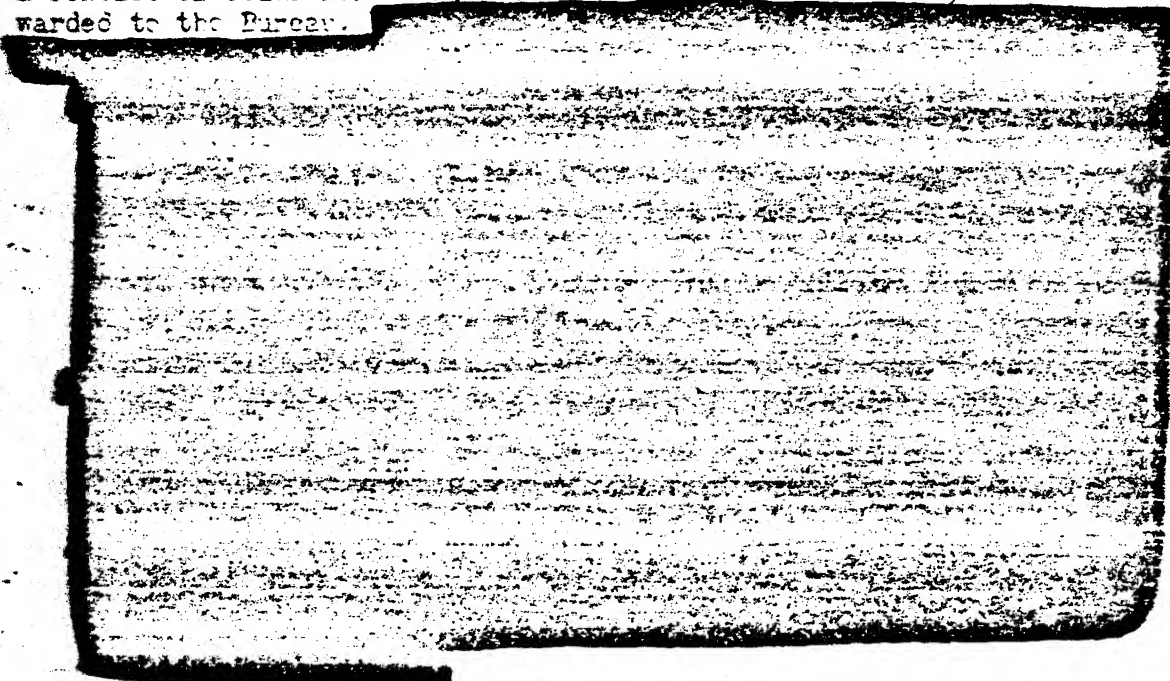
March 6, 1946

Director, FBI

Re: NATHAN GREGORY SILVERMASTER,  
with aliases, et al;  
ESPIONAGE - R

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the letter from the New York Office to the Bureau dated March 5, 1946, wherein it was stated that photographic copies of certain documents found in the possession of URSULA WASSERMAN, a contact of JULIS KORCHIEN, associate of ABRAHAM BROTHMAN, would be forwarded to the Bureau.



Very truly yours,

*E. E. Conroy*  
E. E. CONROY,  
SAC

FDO'B:RAA  
65-14603

Enclosures

65-14603-1089



New York 7, New York

March 7, 1946

~~PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

Re: NATHAN GREGORY SILVERMASTER, was., et. al.  
ESPIONAGE - R


Dear Sir:

Confidential Informant NY 343, whose services have been utilized in connection with ABE BROTHMAN AND ASSOCIATES, 114 East 32 Street, New York City, Telephone Murray Hill 3-9670, has continued to furnish information of value in the above captioned investigation.

On February 21, 1946, informant furnished information concerning JULES KORCHIEN, associate of ABE BROTHMAN. This information concerned the contact of KORCHIEN whose name is URSULA WASSERMAN, and who departed from the United States for Buenos Aires, Argentina, on March 1, 1946. Investigation based on this information indicates WASSERMAN may be closely connected with Russian espionage activities.

It is therefore recommended that the services of this informant be continued.

Very truly yours,

  
E. D. CONROY  
SAC

FDO:CTC  
65-14603

65-14603-1091

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

New York, New York  
March 7, 1946

Director, FBI

Re: NATHAN GILGOBY SILVERMASTER, WAS., SPAL  
ESPIONAGE - R

Dear Sir:

The services of Confidential Informant NY-256 have been used in connection with the investigation of ABRAHAM BROTHMAN, a subject in this case and president of the A. B. A. LABORATORY, 8503 57th Avenue, Elmhurst, Long Island, New York, telephone Newtown 9-8093.

Through this Informant the activities, the whereabouts, and the contacts that BROTHMAN has made during the past month have been ascertained. The Informant has also assisted in submitting information of pertinent value in the investigation of the above captioned case.

Therefore, it is believed that the services of this Informant should be continued.

Very truly yours,

*E. E. Conroy*  
E. E. Conroy, SAC

FD-13:EPG  
65-14603

65-14603-1093

F. B. I.
MAR 7 - 1946
N. Y. C.
ROUTED TO <i>Kristland</i>